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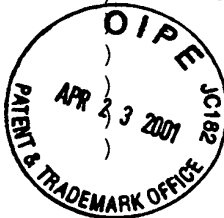
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE - CIVIL CENTER 1600/2900

#12 B  
4-27-01  
R2.

In re the Application of )  
David Charles Baulcombe et al. )  
Serial No. 09/491,549 )  
Filed: January 26, 2000 )  
For: "GENE SILENCING" )

Group Art Unit: 1632  
Examiner: P. Paras, Jr.  
Response to Paper No. 10



**AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION  
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111**

In response to the Official Action dated January 19, 2001, please amend the above identified patent application as follows:

**In the specification:**

At page 1, line 2 of the application, please insert the following priority claim:

~~B~~ -- The present application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) to GB application No. 9925459.1 filed October 27, 1999.--

Please substitute lines 3-33 of page 35 with the following abstract in accordance with the Examiner's requirement:

-- Methods are disclosed for screening for the occurrence of gene silencing (e.g., post transcriptional gene silencing) in an organism. Also provided are methods for isolating silencing agents so identified.--